The Progressive Review

Nbr 310
October 1992

Ask not what your legislators can do for your country. Tell them.

Ken Seide

We've lost control of our state legislatures. Our representatives no longer represent us. The solution is not term limitations. Turning lame brains into lame ducks won't guarantee better government. A succession of law-makers wet behind the ears can't turn the states around if they're vacant between the ears.

Initiatives on the ballot aren't a panacea either. We can circumvent our state legislatures for only so long. Eventually we have to do some intervention into the legislatures.

We have to be able to reach into the statehouses, tap our legislators on their shoulders, tell them -- not merely advise them -- how to vote and expect them to obey.

Fortunately some of us have the right to do so. Citizens in some states have been able to do it since the 17th century. It's only been in the 20th century that we've forgotten how.

What we've forgotten is the right of instruction -- the right to instruct legislators how to vote. It's there in 16 state constitutions so plain that someone reading one of the provisions might say,, "Nawww. It couldn't actually mean what is says. Could it?"

But the provisions -- which say something along the lines of "The people have the right to give instructions to their representatives" -- do mean what they say. We know that from historical context and political practice over the course of four centuries in America.

Americans inherited instructions from the British, who frequently instructed members of Parliament. Edmund Burke the statesmen, opposed instructions in his famous 1774 speech to the electors of Bristol. Burke maintained, "Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your judgment."

Once elected to Parliament, Burke disobeyed his constituents' instructions. In the next election his constituents, favoring democracy over timeless eloquence, turned him into an ex-member of Parliament.

Instructing legislators has been a part of American government from almost the start. The Concessions and Agreements of West New Jersey in 1676 stated that proprietors and freeholders when choosing "deputies or trustees," were to give them "their instructions ...."

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a resolution recommending that towns instruct their representatives on independence from Britain. The Massachusetts legislature wanted to be instructed so that it in turn could instruct Massachusetts's delegates to the Continental Congress on the issue.

Among American statesmen who supported the right of instruction, or were not too proud to obey instructions as legislators and delegates, were John Adams James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, John Jay (the first chief justice of the US Supreme Court), Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Henry Clay and two state representatives from Illinois: Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

The 19th century was the heyday of instructions in America. It was a time when state legislatures, not citizens, elected US senators. As the "constituencies" of US senators, state legislators regularly instructed US senators how to vote. US senators regularly obeyed. Occasionally,

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a senator spoke in debate against a bill that he personally opposed and under instructions from the legislature back home, voted for it.

Instructions ignited big blow-ups, political crises and resignations from the Senate. One such crisis and resignation indirectly led to the presidency of John Tyler.

In the early 20th century, the practice of instructing legislators declined, and the concept of telling legislators how to vote became alien to the modern political mind. Ironically, the progressive movement, which fought to enhance democracy was at least partly responsible.

The Progressives succeeded in having the US Constitution amended in 1913 to provide for the direct popular election of US senators. When state legislators stopped electing -- and instructing -- US senators, citizens lost a constant reminder that they in turn could instruct their state legislators.

The Progressives were also successful in having various state constitutions amended to provide for the initiative and referendum -- which came to replace, rather than complement instructions.

Before citizens can reclaim the right of instruction, they have to modernize it. In New England, citizens traditionally implemented the right through town meetings. Since town meeting votes are public and verifiable, legislators were not left wondering whether they had been definitively instructed.

But not all states provide for local governance through town meetings, and even in New England, not all communities hold town meetings. So how are legislators to be instructed?

Well, at least one state, Massachusetts, created a mechanism in 1913 to implement the right of instruction. Citizens can issue instructions through ballot questions in individual Massachusetts senators' and representatives' districts. If a majority of voters in, say, a senator's district vote on a ballot question to instruct her how to vote for increased funding for social services, she is supposed to vote accordingly.

As an article in the Winter 1992 issue of *The New England Law Review* (published by the New England School of Law in Boston) pointed out citizens can "fine-tune" their legislators. A pro-choice district, with an anti-abortion incumbent who faces no reelection opponent, can send the incumbent back to the State House instructed to vote for abortion rights.

In a year in which every presidential candidate seemed to have pledged to "take back America," citizens can start using instructions again to take back their state legislatures. John Adams once said, "The right of the people to instruct their representatives, is very dear to them and will never be disputed by me." The right can become dear again.

The right of instruction sounds like a peculiarly New England practice, and the right can be found in the constitutions of Massachusetts, New Hampshire Vermont, and Maine. But constitutions guarantee the right in as diverse states as Kansas and West Virginia as well as in the Midwest (Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana), the Northwest (Idaho and Oregon), the Southwest (California and Nevada), and the South (Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida).

The Progressive Review

Bucking the system since 1966

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Weather Report

Drug busts

ADA calls for end of drug possession penalties: The national board of Americans for Democratic Action has called for the elimination of all criminal and civil penalties for the possession of drugs. The vote -- taken at a board meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, in September -- represents a major change for ADA and is a breakthrough among mainstream political organizations for advocates of a health-centered drug policy.

The ADA board resolution also called for:

- Treatment on demand, including for pregnant women.
- "Total and unequivocal opposition to emphasis on a punitive policy of controlling drug abuse."
- Placing the national drug programs under the Surgeon General rather than the Department of Justice with funds shifted from criminal enforcement to treatment and education.
- Community-based programs for at-risk youth.
- Free needle exchanges to stem the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases.

ADA charged that the Bush Administration's analysis of the causes of drug abuse "are founded upon seriously flawed concepts. Treating drug abuse as criminal behavior has "never worked and cannot work, as witnessed by the futility of this approach by the last five US presidents."

> More Americans are in federal prison today for drug crimes than were in federal prison for all crimes when Ronald Reagan took office. The United States has a bigger proportion of its population behind bars than any other country... The Justice Department estimates that by 1995 two-thirds of all convicts will be inside for drugs. -- *Dan Baum in the Nation*

The chilling effect of accuracy: The government says that employers' drug testing labs don't have to meet the same professional standards as other clinical laboratories. Says Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan, such a requirement would have "an unintended chilling effect on efforts to establish drug testing programs."

- In a front-page analytical piece on the Bush record, the *New York Times*'s Joseph Treaster wrote:

Mr. Bush has often spoke of the value of education, treatment and prevention programs to staunch the desire for drugs. But disregarding the near-unanimous advice of independent experts as well as some on the White House staff who say these are the most effective weapons, Mr. Bush has consistently subordinated health and education to law enforcement... The benefits have been ephemeral at best.

- The Wisconsin state police are using heat-sensing devices on helicopters to try to find grow lights used by pot cultivators in their homes.

> Polls, fundraising, media strategies -- that's what the insiders on the road want to know about. Ask a candidate a detailed question about health care and you're instantly marked as a yahoo. Ask about day care or job creation or the racial makeup of his staff, and you're tagged as a fanatic -- some kind of "ideologue." Why this should be so is difficult to explain, except that "on the bus" naiveté is the worst possible offense. The best way to seem sophisticated is to ask the shallowest questions, preferably with a sneer in your voice. -- *D.D. Guttenplan, Columbia Journalism Review*

The mediacracy

- The LA uprising was a ratings disaster for KNBC, which presented extensive coverage. The riots occurred during sweeps month. The station says it whole approach to news coverage may be radically changed, reports *Spy* magazine.
- While the media has been preoccupied with Bosnia, another example of ethnic cleansing has gone largely unnoticed. As PNS's Dennis Bernstein and Larry Everest report: "All but 60,000 of Kuwait's 350,000 pre-war Palestinians have been driven from the country by a combination of summary executions, disappearances, torture, detention, forced expulsions and a variety of other pressures, from hiring freezes to benefit cuts."

Role models

At a $250-a-plate Jerusalem Foundation, **Henry Kissinger,** announced that "You can't really believe anything an Arab says.." At the same dinner, CBS Middle East correspondent **Fouad Ajami** added, "I've never really wanted elections in any Arab or Muslim country."

The problem with great celebrations is that people actually start reading about the event being celebrated. Hence the fading of the **Christopher Columbus** hoopla as it is discovered, for example, that as far back as 1866, beatification proceedings for him were halted because he

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had a mistress and introduced slavery into the Americas. Columbus also opened the way for the Dominican friar Bartolome de las Casas, who arrived in 1502 and wrote, "The Spaniards made bets as to who would slit a man in two, or cut off his head at one blow; or they opened up his bowels. They tore the babes from their mother's breasts by the feet and dashed their heads against the rock." In addition they burned 13 Indians alive "in honor and reverence of our Redeemer and the Twelve Apostles."

The economy of welfare

Thomas Carlyle tells the story of the woman who lost her husband. She went looking for charity but all turned her down. Finally, she returns to her home town where she contracts typhoid fever. She dies, followed by 17 other villagers who contracted the disease from her. The village physician asks: wouldn't it have been a better economy to have cared for the woman?

Eco-notes

- Bikes now account for 30% of all trips in Havana. In the last two years the Cuban government has bought 1.2 million bikes from China and sold them on credit at subsidized prices.
- The European Community Executive Committee has adopted a plan to impose an energy tax on oil, coal, natural gas and other non-renewables. The tax would start at $3 a barrel and rise to $10 by 2000.
- Toronto has issued a plan that calls for a 50% reduction in residents' auto mileage over the next 14 years, gives priority to buses, streetcars and bikes on city streets and calls for expansion of the Toronto subway. Info: Healthy City Office at 416-392-0099.
- Zurich, Paris, Copenhagen and Amsterdam are all moving to reduce the amount of parking available in the central city.
- 180 acres of land has been purchased in Ithaca NY for an eco-village. 80% of the land will remain rural or open, the rest will be developed as high density cohousing. Info: Charles DeMotte-Grow at 607-844-9586 or Joan Bokaer at 607-255-8276. Other co-housing schemes have cropped up in the DC area, Westchester County NY, Denver, Aspen and Boulder CO.
- The Southern California Regional Rail Authority has arranged to buy 340 miles of Santa Fe Railway track for a network of commuter rail.
- Modesto CA is completing a master plan for development of a new urban village on 1800 acres of land. The city already has rules that all new development be in the form of urban villages: mixed use, pedestrian oriented and with parks and recreational areas. Info: Modesto city planner Steve Nish at 209-577-5280.
- Free bike programs are cropping up in the west. Santa Cruz offers a pool of bikes for workers to use for on-the-job trips with similar programs in San Luis Obispo and Sacramento. Unclaimed recovered bikes are used. Glendale AZ is offering city employees free bikes providing they ride them to work at least three days a week.
- The Safe Energy Communication Council reports that the fuel efficiency of 1992 cars would be 25% higher with no new technology and no downsizing if every car was as efficient as the best model in its weight class. This would produce an average improvement of 7 miles per gallon and would save about 5 percent of US daily oil consumption. EPA figured this out last spring but the White House prevented the agency from publishing the data.
- According to the Bicycle Federation of America the number of bike commuters in the country has more than doubled in the past five years, to nearly 3 million.
- NYC has reached agreement with two major parking garage companies to install bike-parking areas in seven of their Manhattan facilities. The transportation chief of the city hopes to have bike use up 25% by 1995.
- LA is requiring shower and lockers in new developments and a West LA Veloway is in the funding pipeline.
- The Congressional Budget Office has suggested a congestion fee for drivers on overcrowded roads. CBO reports that people in congested areas pay less in gas taxes

Our economic system is partially blind. It sees some things and not others... In calculating GNP, natural resources are not depreciated as they are used up. Buildings and factories are depreciated; so are machinery and equipment, car and trucks. So why, for instance, isn't the topsoil in Iowa depreciated when it washes down the Mississippi River?...

When an underdeveloped nation cuts down a million acres of tropical rain forest in a single year, the money received from the sale of the logs is counted as part of that country's income for the year. The wear and tear on the chain saws and logging trucks... will be entered on the expense side of the ledger, but the wear and tear on the forest itself will not. In fact nowhere in that country's GNP will there be an entry reflecting the stark reality that a million acres of rain forest is now gone....For all practical purposes, GNP treats the rapid and reckless destruction of the environment as a good thing!

Senator Al Gore
Earth in the Balance
(Houghton-Mifflin. 1992)

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than it costs to keep up their roads. Rural drivers pay more.

• The Bush administration has told the state of Maryland that its proposed gas mileage tax goes against federal guidelines to protect auto makers from differing state standards. Maryland had approved a $100 surcharge on car titles for cars getting less than 27 miles per gallon. Beginning in 1995, the fee will begin at 26 miles per gallon and increase $100 for each mile per gallon below that -- up to a maximum of 1% of the value of the car. Buyers of fuel efficient cars will get $50 off for every mile above 34 mpg, up to the same maximum.

• At least 11 Italian cities instituted alternate day driving restrictions -- based on whether the last digit of a license place was odd or even -- on high pollution days. Fines ranged from $44 for driving on the wrong day to $888 for altering license plates. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle,* Rome police wrote nearly 13,000 citations in one day.

Some of these notes are from The Urban Ecologist, a newsletter available by membership from Urban Ecology, PO Box 10144, Berkeley CA 94709

Just politics

George Bush, Jim Baker and Bob Mosbacher are not only working together in the GOP presidential campaign they are co-investors in Hollywood Marine, perhaps the largest petroleum mover on the Gulf of Mexico. According to the Project on Government Oversight, the president has earned over $200,000 from this investment since 1978, Baker probably considerably more. While Mosbacher was Commerce Secretary in 1989-90, he received more than a quarter-million dollars in interest-free loans from the president of Hollywood Marine.

When Bush was vice president, his Task Force on Regulatory Relief killed a US Coast Guard proposal to require double hulls on barges and later Bush's Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner helped to lobby Congress to exempt the barges.

Of more contemporary note is the mutual interest of Hollywood Marine and Bush in Mexico, the former chartering tankers for trading with Mexico and the latter pressing for a free trade agreement.

Christopher Georges, an editor of the *Washington Monthly,* pointed out in an August 24 op-ed piece in the *New York Times* that many of Bill Clinton's ideas -- including 39 or the 49 apecific proposals in his economic plan -- are virtually identical to programs advocated by Mike Dukakis in 1988. Included in the look-alikes are Clinton's apprenticeship program, worker retraining initiative, play-or-pay health insurance and going after tax cheaters.

The idea mill

• Those interested in local currencies may wish to take note of Austria's experiment during the depression of the '30s. David Morris in the *Utne Reader* reported recently that the mayor of Worgl decided to print "tickets for services rendered" which was used to pay people for working on public works and could be used in return for paying local taxes. In the first month each note changed hands 20 times, "other towns took up the idea, and whole areas were transformed out of poverty within three monoths and into prosperity within a year." When 200 mayors announced thaat they were going to do the saame thing, the Austrian central bank got the courts to declare the local currencies unconstitutional.

• When Benjamin Franklin was leaving the constitutional convention he was asked whether the new form of government would be a monarchy or a republic. He replied, "a republic if you choose to keep it." While progressives spend considerable effort opposing affronts to the constitution, surprisingly little thought and discussion centers on what may be the critical issue: how do we pass the idea of democracy from one generation to the next?

With school systems jettisoning social studies, corporations taking over public education and the media adapting to whatever political standards seem convenient this year, it is possible that we may lose democracy simply because we will forget what it is.

A federal civic education act, with funds going to school districts for curricula on the constitution and democratic government, would be an inexpensive way to insure that more attention is paid to this matter. But Suzin Glickman, director of education for the National Capital Area ACLU, isn't waiting for that. She has written "The Bill of Rights Rap," performed by a group of elementary school children at a recent DC ACLU dinner. Sample words:

You're free to speak,
You're free to pray,
You're free to write
and assemble everyday...
Soldiers can't hang out in youur home;
They can't raid the fridge,
Or use your phone.
Get off the phone! Get off the phone!

Losses

Joe Rauh: It is hard to imagine a liberal or progressive movement without Joe Rauh. From battling against McCarthyism to fighting for civil liberties and

THE STATEHOOD PAPERS

Your editor, who wrote the first article outlining the case for DC statehood and was a founding member of the DC statehood movement, has collated various articles on the subject written over the past 20 years. These pieces give not only a history of the movement, but arguments for DC statehood as well as aid and comfort to those who might be interested in starting a new state themselves. (New statehood movements are underway in at least four states). Because of its implications for cities, labor, women and minorities, statehood for DC has become a national movement. This booklet will be useful to anyone interested in the cause.

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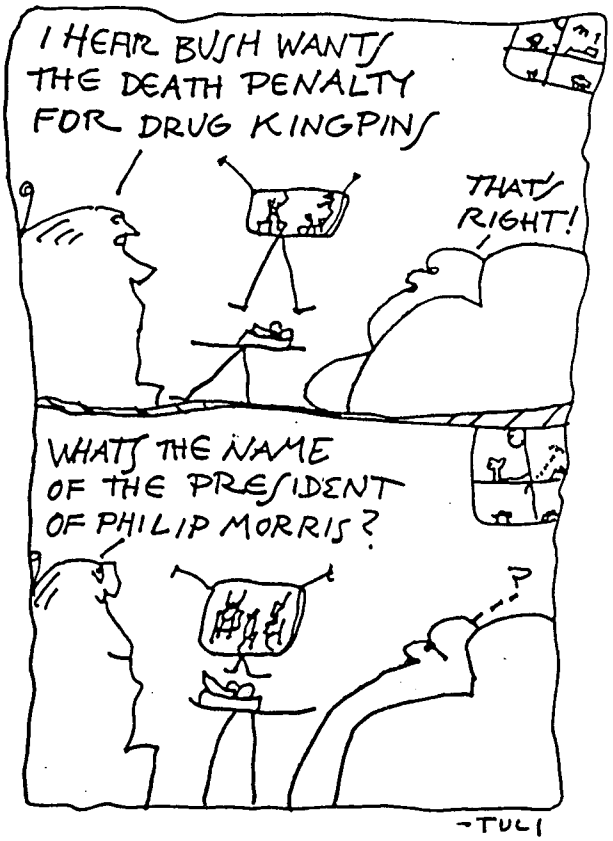

union rights, Joe Rauh was there as an attorney and as an advocate. Active to the end, Rauh's achievements paralleled those of the progressive movement, with the latter often dependent on the former. Joe said once: "What our generation has done is to bring equality in law. The next generation has to bring equality in fact."

Ted Weiss: When Ted Weiss was on the city council in NYC he fought against the cabaret licensing law for cabaret artists that ensnared Lenny Bruce; was one of the first members to support a gay rights law and wrote the NYC gun control legislation. In 1977 he was elected to Congress where he opposed the Vietnam, was one of the seven members of Congress who wanted Reagan impeached for his illegal invasion of Grenada, and was an opponent of the Iraqi Massacre. He supported civil liberties at every turn and opposed the evil, the illegal and the unconstitutional wherever it cropped up. On top of that, he was one of the nicest politicians we ever met.

Devolution notes

Vermont and Minnesota joined the growing number of states not waiting for the federal government to do something about health care. The Vermont governor has signed into a law a bill designed to lead the state to some form of universal health care by 1995. And Minnesota has approved a bill that would guarantee health insurance to more than 150,000 resident that have none.

The city

- According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, as many as one million rooms for boarders have disappeared in America over the past 20 years. As the NCH points out, these single rooms "have provided a critical source of cheap (though often substandard) housing for low-income single men and women."
- The battle to make the world safe for the Pentagon budget has got America's cities in its sights. Senator Sam Nunn, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has proposed using military specialists to help urban and private agencies on city problems. Nunn's urban pacification program would "assist civilian authorities in addressing the critical fundamentals upon which a healthy society and economy are built." Your average military dictator couldn't have said it better.

The economy

That settlement between ATT and the communications workers didn't just happen. The union circulated pledge cards which gave it the right to change customers' long-distance service should there be a strike. Union officials say more than a million Americans signed up.

The welfare fathers

You probably didn't get a notice of this, but the Resolution Trust Company is now auctioning off raw land valued at less than $500,000 for no minimum bid. For land worth up to $2 million, a bid of 50% of appraised value is acceptable.

Furthermore

- A Toronto entrepreneur is selling "coitus consent" forms. They came bound like a checkbook and, according to the *Realist,* have places for the couple to sign, record where the sex act took place, the method of birth control use, and whether either party was under the influence of drugs or liquor.
- A firm called for Card From Beyond is offering to dispatch holiday greetings to your loved ones. The angle is that these cards will be dispatched *after* you die.
- A GM plant has moved from Van Nuys CA to just outside of Montreal. One reason: GM will save $700 in labor costs per car because of Canadian national health insurance.
- Helen Dewar in the *Washington Post* reports that Sen. George Mitchell tells the story of a real estate group that visited his office with a nine-point list. The first item was "balance the budget," all the rest were proposals that would raise the budget. Explained one member of the group, the first item was "sort of like a letterhead."
- A new National Security Agency "education" poster displays the face of a black man with the caption BO HAS NO NEED TO KNOW.
- We recently reported on the strange story of cold fusion, which while being heavily ridiculed by the scientific establishment (and the American media when it notices it at all) is attracting research funding from the Japanese and some American corporations. The latest development is the claim of Clustron, a suburban Washington corporation that it has figured out how to tap cold-fusion energy. It has filed for patents and has received start-up funding from a venture capital firm. The firm's backers include retired Admiral Elmo Zumwalt and the chair is Ronald A. Brightsen, a former official with the

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Meanwhile, the reaction from physics professor John Huizenga is typical of the conventional wisdom: "I can assure you that cold fusion is not for real. It's only for real in the heads of people who invent things that just defy everything we known about physics."

• The Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association has refused to place *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* in the battlefield bookstore.

• Seven prominent American Indian leaders have filed a federal administrative law action with the Patent and Trademark Office seeking to cancel federal registration and protection of the trademarked term "Redskins." Says the attorney for the Morning Star Foundation, which is sponsoring the action, "Federal trademark law -- and related case law --- clearly prohibit trademark registration of words that are offensive or disparaging."

• The CIA has been going around asking various institutions what they think the intelligence goals of the agency should be. To the amazement of the folks at the Institute for Policy Studies, erstwhile target of CIA surveillance, that progressive think tank was included in the CIA's outreach. Marc Raskin and Richard Barnet offered a number of suggestions, one of the more imaginative being Raskin's proposal that the agency become part of the Library of Congress.

ROADSIGNS

Arts

Annual budget of America's military bands: $203 million

Annual budget of National Endowment for the Arts: $175 million

Budget

Increase in national debt 1988-92: 54%

Surplus in entitlement trust funds including social security and Medicare: $96 billion

Cities

Federal aid to cities 1980: $42 billion

Federal aid to cities 1992: $22 billion

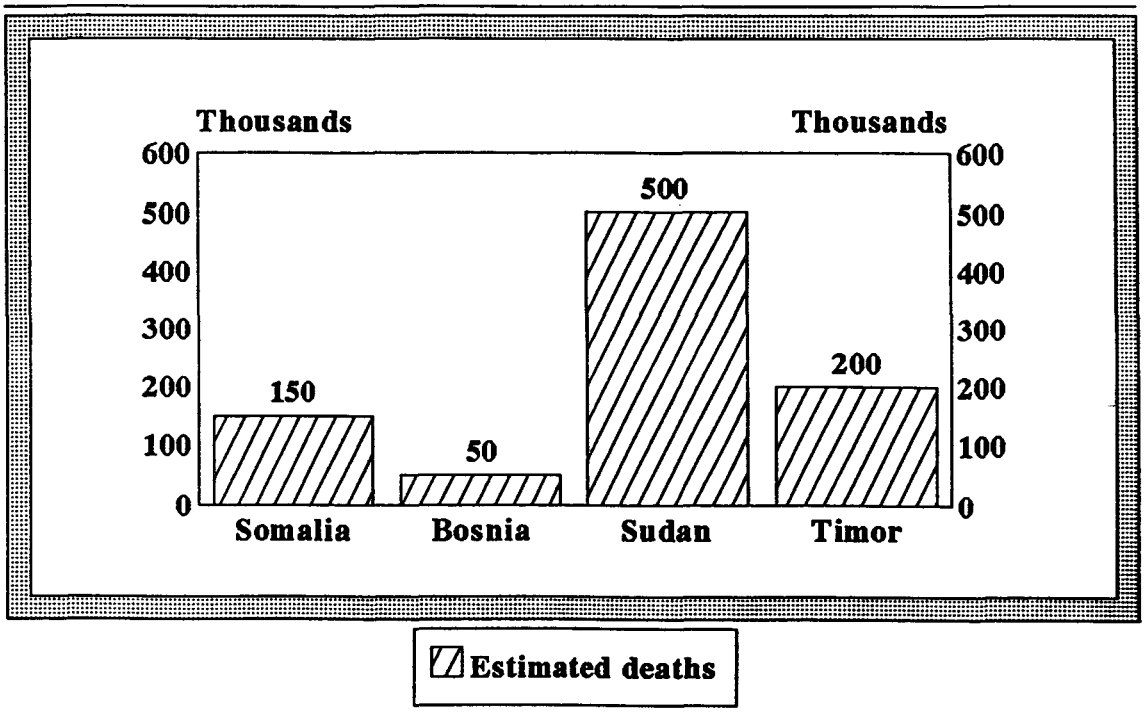
Crime

Increase in violent crime 1981-91: 40%

Increase in assaults: 89%

Foreign Conflicts

Which one makes the front page?



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Defense

US military aid to dictatorships, 1991: $26 billion

Demonstrations

Increase since 1979 in students participating in demonstrations: 40%

Drugs

Number of killings in the "War on Drugs": Over 35,000

Pregnant addicts receiving drug treatment: 10%

Increase in number of drug offenders in prison 1980-90: over 300%

White males who used alcohol in past year: 88%

Black males who used alcohol in past year: 72%

White males who used pot in past year: 40%

Black males who used pot in past year: 30%

Increase in number of drug offenders in federal prison since 1980: 600%

Federal penalty for possessing five grams of crack (favored by black users): Mandatory 5 years

Federal penalty for possession of powder cocaine (favored by white users): 1 year

Blacks as a percent of nation's drug users: 12%

Blacks as percentage of drug felons convicted in state courts: 43%

Blacks as a percent of drug arrests: 90%

Value of illegal drugs sold in US annually: $40.4 billion

Total expenditures for federal, state and local law enforcement in US annually: $46 billion

Large firms testing for drugs: 75%

Economy

Decline in real wages for American workers since 1979: 7%

Average economic growth for a four-year presidential term 1949-1988: 13.7%

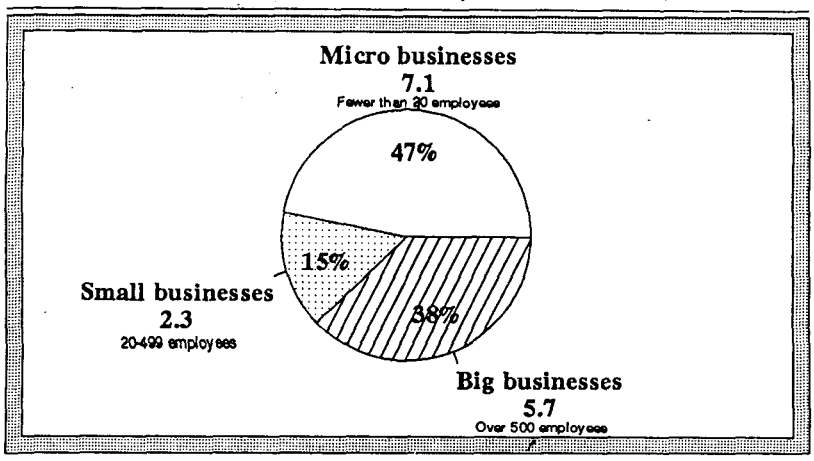
Growth during weakest presidential term during this period (Eisenhower's second): 7.3%

Growth during Bush's first three years plus the growth predicted by the administration for this year: 4.1%.

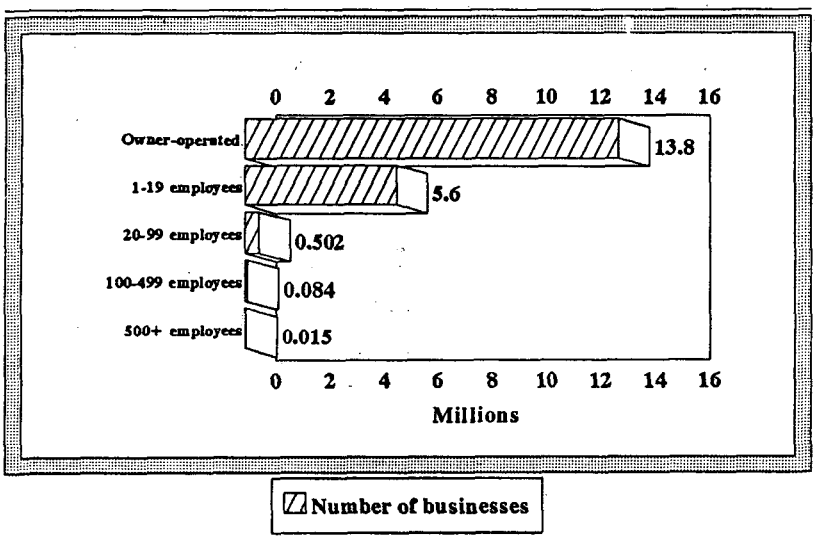
Americans living in poverty: 14.2% (the highest level since 1964)

Who Creates the Jobs?

Jobs created 1984-90 by business type
(in millions)



The Real Nature of American Business



Source: SBA and Washington Post

Although you'd never guess it from the campaign rhetoric of both major parties, small and micro businesses make up the bulk of American enterprise in terms of number of businesses and job growth. In fact, between 1988 and 1990, *all* the country's four million net new jobs were accounted for by increases in employment by firms with less than 20 employees. Yet both parties give only lip service to small business while catering to the special interests of large firms whose major activities these days include reducing personnel.

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Energy

Americans favoring solar energy and energy efficiency as the country's energy priorities: 62%

Americans opposing the building of more nuclear plants: 65%

Health

Americans who believe government should guarantee medical care for all people without health insurance: 77% (including 66% of all Republicans.)

Canadians over 15 who get health care within one week of requesting it: 96%

Percent of national income Canada spends on health care: 9.2%

Percent of national income America spends on health care: 12.3%

Cost of prenatal care for a pregnant woman for nine months: $600

Cost of medical care for a premature baby for one day: $2500.

Cost of a measles shot: $8

Cost of hospitalization for a child with measles: $5000

Media

Nbr of newspapers carrying George Will: 298

Nbr of newspapers carrying Mary McGrory: 82

North American Free Trade Agreement

Estimate of number of American jobs that would be lost under NAFTA: 290,000 -- 900,0-000

Politics

Extraneous correlations with Democratic presidential victories: a rise in hemlines (80%); good vintage year for Bordeaux wine (78%); and a National League win in the World Series (73%)

Welfare

Length of time most recipients stay on welfare: less than two years

Average number of children in families receiving welfare: 1.9 (well below the national average)

FIELD NOTES

GROUPS

The 21st Century Party: a new progressive political party currently in the early stages of formation with help from the leaders of NOW and the Christic Institute. A copy of its platform and bill or rights is free {1600 Wilson Blvd. #707, Arlington VA 22209. 800-394-21ST}

The New Party: a new progressive political party being formed with support from a number of labor leaders and ACORN activists. [3224 Bellevue Avenue, Bloomfield NJ 07003]

Forfeiture Endangers Americans' Rights: FEAR has been formed to fight the growing practice of forfeiture in drug and other cases without due process. {PO Box 5424, Somerset NJ 08875]

ACORN meets with banks: At its recent national convention, members of ACORN met with representatives of 44 banks to discuss urban reinvestment. 27 of the banks committed to entering into follow-up negotiations with ACORN leaders, 228 if you include Citicorp which had to be persuaded by a noisy demonstration. [739 8th St. SE, DC 20003, 202-547-9292]

Project Vote Smart: Designed to make voters independent of campaign gimmicks, this organization offers a voter's information hotline [800-786-6885] to get accurate information on presidential, congressional and gubernatorial candidates including voting records and campaign contributors. Also a hard copy study of each state's congressional delegation [900-786-6885 -- $3.50 charge for the call] and a reporter's resource center [603-737-4000].

READING

The Uses of Disorder by Richard Sennett. Now available in paperback, this classic work makes the case for more diversity and anarchy in cities combined with a strong attack on conventional city planning. One of our favorites. [WW Norton, $8.95]

The Battle for Public Schools: *The Nation* of September 21, contains several articles that outline the efforts by American corporations to take over the nation's schools. A must read about an issue that has gotten too little attention.

Health care in crisis: Both major presidential candidates find themselves to the right of *Consumer Reports,* which makes an extremely clear and strong case for a single-payer national health insurance system in its September issue. Another good piece appeared on the *NYT* op-ed pages on July 23.

Greens and Libertarians: Dan Sullivan, writing in *Green Revolution's* summer issue, makes a thoughtful case for Greens and Libertarians working together on many issues. [School of Living, RD1 Box 185A, Cochranville PA 19330]

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Sustainable Cities: Concepts & Strategies for Eco-City Development: 368 pages based on the first Los Angeles Eco-Cities Conference and includes an extensive resource guide and index. [$21.65 from Eco Home, 4344 Russell Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027]

Saving Cities, Saving Money: A guide to environmental strategies used in this country and elsewhere that have helped to build eco-cities. [$15.95 from Resource Renewal Institute, Building 1055, Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965]

GUIDES

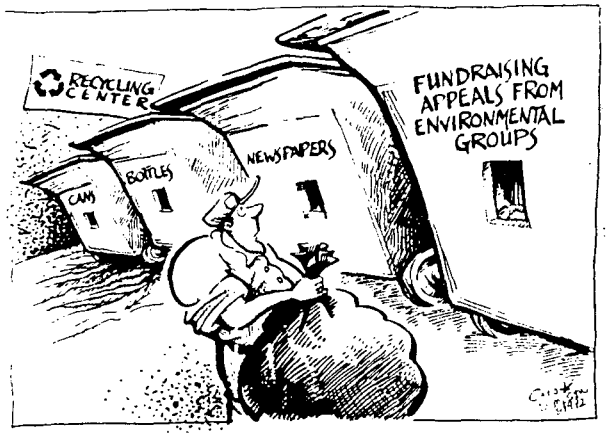
Puget Sound Green Pages: A local directory that includes not only activist organization but businesses that work for a better society through both their goods and services and their policies and practices. Such guides flourished in the 60s, and this one is a good prototype for those wishing to publish something similar in their own community. To make this easier the publishers have packaged many of the materials they used to create the Green Pages (survey forms, informational flyers etc.) into a kit. [$10 from Institute for Consumer Responsibility, 6506 28th Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115.]

Housing guide for churches: This guide, *Rebuilding Our Communities,* describes 25 different housing strategies churches can use to provide housing for low-income families. Discusses planning, staffing and operations. [$15.50. World Vision, 919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia CA 91016] Credit card orders at 800-448-6479.

Green Development: An informative guide to rural development projects in northern New England that have preserved open space within their borders. The guide discusses good site planning, lessons learned from each case and issues involved. An exceptionally clear and helpful publication. [$10, Maine Tomorrow, PO Box 327, Hallowell ME 04347].

THINGS

Long John Workbike: This bike can carry up to 180 pounds in tight traffic. Human Powered Machines, 503-343-5568.



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